

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A bag (1, 101, 201), ~~consisting of~~ comprising:

two faces (1a, 1b) joined together around their whole periphery, with the exception of one longitudinal edge, the bag having an opening (1d) emerging at said longitudinal edge, the two faces of the bag being welded to one another along two opposite lateral edges (2, 3), at least one face having, near said opening, ~~at least one~~ an elastic band ~~(16, 116, 216)~~ joined to said face by two connection regions ~~(17, 117, 217, 2a, 17')~~ in such ~~a way~~ that ~~the~~ an effective relaxed length (L2) of said elastic band between the two connection regions corresponds to ~~the~~ a gap between the two connection regions on the bag and is shorter than ~~the~~ a length (L1) of the longitudinal edge of said face of the bag, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein the said elastic band ~~(16, 116, 216)~~ extends across ~~the~~ a whole width of the bag ~~[[,]]~~ from ~~one~~ a first of the lateral ~~edge~~ edges to ~~the other~~ a second of the lateral edges,

wherein said elastic band ~~being~~ is welded to the two
faces of the bag ~~along~~ at each of said two lateral edges, and
~~wherein at least one of the abovementioned two~~
~~connection regions forming an "intermediate"~~ said elastic band
is further welded to the bag at an intermediate connection
region, ~~(17, 117, 217, 17')~~ located at a distance the
intermediate connection region forming one of the two
connection regions and being at a location spaced from the
~~abovementioned~~ two lateral edges.

2. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each face of the bag (1, 101) comprises a hem (8) bordering said opening (1d), ~~in which is placed~~ and a non-elastic drawstring (6, 106) located in the hem, it being possible for each the non-elastic drawstring configured to be grasped from the outside via at least one notch (12, 112) made through ~~said hems~~ the hem.

3. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each face of the bag (1, 101) is folded inward, along the longitudinal edge of the bag, ~~in~~ such a way that a first part of the fold (4) forms the ~~abovementioned~~ hem (8) and a second part of the fold extends beyond ~~it~~ the first part ~~by~~ to form a skirt (4b), said elastic band ~~(16, 116)~~ being joined to the corresponding face of the

bag by at least partially overlapping said skirt ~~at least partially~~.

4. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each face of the bag (201) associated with ~~the~~ said elastic band (216) is folded inward along the longitudinal edge of the bag, ~~in such a way that the~~ said elastic band is joined to said face[[,]] and at least partially overlapping said fold (4) ~~at least partially~~.

5. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elastic band is further welded to the bag at the other of the abovementioned two connection regions forms another an additional intermediate connection region (17') ~~located at a distance~~ located at a position spaced from the ~~abovementioned~~ two lateral edges (2, 3) and from the ~~first~~ intermediate connection region (17), the additional intermediate connection region forming the other of the two connection regions.

6. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein one of the two lateral edges furthest from the intermediate connection region forms the other of the abovementioned two connection regions consists of the region where the elastic band is welded (2a) to the

~~lateral edge edges (2) of the bag furthest from the
abovementioned intermediate connection region (17, 117, 217).~~

7. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each the elastic band ~~(16, 216)~~ is joined to an inside face of the bag (1, 101).

8. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each the elastic band ~~(116, 116a, 116b)~~ is joined to an outer face of the bag (101).

9. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each the elastic band is cut longitudinally into two vertically adjacent tapes (116a, 116b), ~~whose respective~~ and the two connection regions ~~(117a, 117b)~~ lie in ~~the~~ vertical extension of one another, so that the two vertically adjacent tapes form a closed loop with the bag, each tape of the tapes of said loop ~~being designed~~ configured to extend around an opposite side of a container.

10. (currently amended) The bag as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the said elastic band ~~(6, 16, 116)~~ has a degree of elongation of less than 150%, ~~and preferably of around 100%.~~

11-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A series of bags (1, 101, 201), comprising:

a plurality of bags having longitudinal edges and lateral edges, ~~attached by~~ the lateral edges of said bags being attached to one another, said ~~series~~ plurality of bags having a longitudinal direction corresponding to longitudinal edges of said bags,

wherein each bag ~~consisting of~~ comprises two faces (1a, 1b) joined together around ~~their~~ a whole periphery of the bag, with the exception of one longitudinal edge, ~~the~~ each bag having an opening (1d) emerging at said longitudinal edge, the two faces of ~~the~~ each bag being welded to one another along two opposite lateral edges (2, 3) of ~~said~~ each bag, at least one face having, near said opening, ~~at least one~~ an elastic band ~~(16, 116, 216)~~ joined to said face by two connection regions ~~(17, 117, 217, 2a, 17')~~ in such a way that ~~the~~ an effective relaxed length (L2) of said elastic band between the two connection regions corresponds to ~~the~~ a gap between the two connection regions on ~~the~~ each bag and is shorter than ~~the~~ a length (L1) of the longitudinal edge of said face of ~~the~~ each bag, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein ~~the said~~ elastic band ~~(16, 116, 216)~~ extends continuously along ~~the~~ a whole length of the series of bags

(1, 101, 201), said elastic band being welded to the two faces of ~~the each bag along~~ at each of said two lateral edges of ~~said each bag, and~~

~~wherein at least one of the abovementioned two connection regions forming an "intermediate"~~ said elastic band is further welded to the bag at an intermediate connection region, (17, 117, 217, 171) located at a distance the intermediate connection region forming one of the two connection regions and being at a location spaced from the abovementioned two lateral edges.

15. (new) The bag as claimed in claim 10, wherein said elastic band has a degree of elongation of approximately 100%.

16. (new) The bag as claimed in claim 14, wherein the elastic band is further welded to each bag at an additional intermediate connection region located at a position spaced from the two lateral edges and from the intermediate connection region, the additional intermediate connection region forming the other of the two connection regions.

17. (new) The bag as claimed in claim 14, wherein one of the two lateral edges furthest from the intermediate connection region forms the other of the two connection regions.

18. (new) A bag, comprising:

first and second faces joined together at a first longitudinal edge and two opposing lateral edges, the first and second faces forming an opening at a second longitudinal edge, and the first longitudinal edge forming a bottom of the bag; and

an elastic band joined to each of the two opposing lateral edges and extending between the two opposing lateral edges along one of the first and second faces near the opening, the elastic band also joined to the one of the first and second faces at an intermediate connection region at a location spaced from both of the two opposing lateral edges,

wherein an effective relaxed length (L2) of said elastic band between the intermediate connection region and another connection region where the elastic band joins the one of the first and second faces corresponds to a gap between the intermediate connection region and the another connection region and is shorter than a length (L1) of the second longitudinal edge of the one of the first and second faces.

19. (new) The bag as claimed in claim 18, wherein the another connection region is formed by one of the two lateral edges furthest from the intermediate connection region.

20. (new) The bag as claimed in claim 18, wherein the another connection region is formed by an additional intermediate connection region where the elastic band is joined to the one of the first and second faces, the additional intermediate connection region located at a position spaced from the two lateral edges and spaced from the intermediate connection region.